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February 4, 2009

To Members of the Labor Committee:

My name is Donna J. Weisenberger. I am Vice President of Human Resources at Plas-Pak Industries, Inc., Norwich, Connecticut. I am writing to you to voice my opposition to HB-6187, which would require Connecticut employers to provide paid sick leave.

My human resources experience with New England companies is extensive. Unfortunately my career already includes relocating one company from Connecticut. It is my sincere professional opinion that passage of this measure will result in numerous plant closures and business relocations, making an already painful situation in Connecticut unbearable.

With the State unemployment rate approaching 9% and a Labor Department that is so overwhelmed it is unable to review and approve SharedWork requests in time to prevent layoffs; this bill will result in even more workforce reductions. Companies will be forced to look at all other alternatives to remain competitive, including benefit reductions, wage freezes, and business locations. My Employee Surveys indicate that our 145 employees, are happy with their jobs and benefits including medical, dental, vision, vacation, 9 paid holidays, 401(k) profit sharing plan, life insurance, supplemental life insurance, and optional short term disability insurance. They have been happy for 24 years. Let the free market system work and please don't unintentionally precipitate more job losses or drive more businesses from Connecticut by further increasing workplace costs. I would be very happy to work with you and your committee in your efforts to make Connecticut the best place to work.

I strongly urge you to reject this proposal.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donna J. Weisenberger', is written over the typed name and title.

Donna J. Weisenberger  
Vice President Human Resources  
Plas-Pak Industries, Inc.